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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

It is obvious to the informed observer, that the Antitrust case against Microsoft is not a case of righting wrongs, but a legally sanctioned method for Microsoft's competitors to achieve, via the courts, what they cannot competently achieve in the open marketplace.

Within the group, containing hundreds of persons that I have discussed this issue with, I have yet to find anyone who believes it to be anything else.

Therefore, it is my assessment that this antitrust case has and will continue to set the stage for a publicly accepted establishment of a marketplace of litigation that will supplant the marketplace of competition in the United States and very soon the world at large, and all at the ultimate expense of the consumer.

Even to the uninformed, it is obvious that it is not difficult to determine if someone or some corporation is and/or has used "strong-arm" tactics, instead of open competition, to gain and/or maintain their position in the marketplace. And it is also quite simple to understand that strong-arm, mafia tactics or anything using the same methodology should be punished according to a strict code of justice.

On the other hand, open competition via superior quality, lower prices, free products or services, aggressive marketing, etc. should be highly encouraged to keep the marketplace healthy and long-lived. Never should such competition be punished as it is being punished in the antitrust case against Microsoft.

If such punishment is allowed to be upheld in the mode desired by Microsoft's competitors, then we will surely soon see the end of the the business world as we know it. It will become the competition of the strongest litigator and all else that once drove the marketplace will be lost to history.

---Allen Dobrynin

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